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IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION EXPANDS

UKRAINIAN METAL INDUSTRY MEETS JANUARY PLAN -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 40,
18 Feb 49

The January 1949 plan was fulfilled by the Ukrainian SSR metallurgical industry as follows: pig iron, 101.9 percent; steel, 104.1 percent; rolled iron, 108.4 percent; pipe rolling, 110.1 percent; iron ore mining, 103.5 percent; and manganese ore mining, 102.8 percent.

GEORGIAN PLANTS GET NEW EQUIPMENT -- Zarya Vostoka, No 49, 13 Mar 49

An electric steel-smelting oven has been put into operation in the foundry of the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant in Rustavi, Georgian SSR. The new oven will enable the plant to manufacture its own steel parts and all nonstandard installations for its newly erected ships. The oven has a capacity of 15 tons, or 5 melts per day.

RESEARCH GROUP AT METAL PLANT -- Zarya Vostoka, No 44, 6 Mar 49

A scientific research group was formed at the Zestafoni Ferroalloy Plant in 1949. A separate room with experimental furnaces was assigned to this group. In 1949, the plant plans to improve existing technological processes, start production of a new alloy, reduce raw material and electric power consumption, and at the same time increase the output of products. The scientific research group will help to gain these results.

UZBEK METALLURGICAL CENTER GROWS -- Patriot Rodiny, No 23, 20 Mar 49

The city of Begovat, founded during World War II, is not yet on the map. At the end of 1942, Stalin signed a decree for the construction of the first hydroelectric power plant on the Syr-Dar'ya River.

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The Syr-Dar'ya River crosses the Fergana Valley from east to west. At a point where the river reaches two huge cliffs, it turns sharply north. Here the small village of Begovat had existed for many years.

The two large construction projects, i.e., the power plant and the metallurgical plant, were started almost simultaneously. The Khil'kovo railroad siding became an important railroad center.

In 6 years Begovat has become a city with wide, asphalt streets, high stone buildings, a large metallurgical plant, the Farkhad GES, a cement plant, and an asbestos cement-pipe plant.

The Begovat Metallurgical Plant, one of the largest enterprises of Uzbekistan, is equipped with the most modern machinery. The plant produces more than 30 shapes of rolled steel. Six of them, including angle iron, were introduced into the plant in 1948, and the output increases continuously. Steel workers at the plant have exceeded the planned capacity of the open-hearth furnaces. Labor efficiency of the metallurgical workers increased 36 percent in 1948.

Aside from being an industrial production center, the new city is also training personnel. During 1948, three technical schools, a pedagogical institute, and a higher industrial school, were opened.

FAR EAST PLANT FACES PROBLEM -- Krasnoye Znamya, No 34, 12 Feb 49

F. Yelenkin, director of the "Metallist" Plant, Primorskiy Kray, reports that the plant fulfilled the 1948 plan 112.4 percent, decreased production costs 4.3 percent more than planned and 14.4 percent over 1947, and produced 1 1/2 times more goods in 1948 than in 1947. The plant, however, used all the State subsidy in 1948 and the production costs exceeded the prices approved by the Government.

The problem of selling finished production has not yet been satisfactorily resolved. Finished goods remained for a year in the warehouse without being sold. A total of 3.7 million rubles was thereby frozen in finished production in the plant warehouse. The actual turnover time for one ruble of working capital in 1948 was 234 days, and only 1 ruble, 84 kopeks of goods were produced per ruble of working capital. The plant has developed important practical measures to speed the production cycle, and has pledged to accelerate the turnover of working capital by 60 to 90 days and to release 2 million to 3 million rubles of working capital to the State in 1949.

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